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From: Maier, Brent
Sent: Wed 10/15/2014 6:27:03 PM
Subject: EPA Press Release: EPA Announces \$4.8 Million for Environmental Improvements on Tribal
Lands in Nevada

Dear Colleagues:

The following press release is being issued today by the EPA Region IX press office. If you have questions or need any additional information, please give me a call.

Regards,

Brent Maier

Congressional Liaison
Telephone: 415.947.4256



For Immediate Release: October 15, 2014

Contact: Margot Perez-Sullivan, perezsullivan.margot@epa.gov

EPA Announces \$4.8 Million for Environmental Improvements on Tribal Lands in Nevada

SAN FRANCISCO – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced \$4.8 million in funding to invest in Nevada tribes for environmental programs, water infrastructure development, community education and capacity building. The announcement was made at the 22nd Annual Regional Tribal Conference in Sacramento, Calif.

“The federal government is committed to protecting human health and the environment in Indian Country,” said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA’s Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. “This funding will help conserve precious water resources, create jobs, and improve the quality of life on tribal lands.”

This year Nev. tribes will use about \$2.5 million to continue tribal environmental programs, cleanup open dumps, conduct small construction projects, targeted community outreach, and community education – the cornerstone of tribal environmental programs.

The tribes will use the additional \$2.3 million for a wide variety of water quality projects including watershed protection and restoration, water and energy efficiency, wastewater reclamation, and treatment systems. The funds also support drinking water

infrastructure, plant operator training, and technical assistance.

For example, this year Shoshone Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley will install erosion control, revegetate eroding streambanks and install four alternate livestock watering systems or troughs which will reduce pollution caused by livestock in tribal waterways.

These funds are critical in building the capacity of tribes to carry out environmental work. Because most tribes in the Pacific Southwest have small governments, one goal of the funding is to assist tribes in developing their ability to establish environmental protection programs and make informed decisions about issues that impact the health of their people and the quality of their environment. The funds are used to develop environmental and public health ordinances, and coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions.

The EPA's Pacific Southwest Region is home to 148 tribal nations with half of Indian Country nationwide concentrated in three states; Indian Country in California, Arizona and Nevada is about equal to area of the six New England states combined.

For more information please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/tribal>

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